



Greening Tribal Events: Pow Wows, Rodeos and other Large Scale Gatherings

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Introduction

This presentation will:

- Provide ideas: solid waste infrastructure varies amongst tribes – no blanket prescription
- Describe what can be achieved through source reduction at tribal events
- Provide financial and technical resource information



Omak Stampede and Pow Wow
Colville Confederated Tribes
Always the 2nd Weekend of August

Who We Are: Tribal Solid Waste Team

Heather White, Supervisor

- Some Arizona tribes and Southern CA (border)
- (415) 972-3384

Nancy Sockabasin

- Nevada and Southern California (non-border)
- (415) 972-3772

Michelle Baker

- Some Arizona, Northern CA, Eastern Sierras
- (415) 972-3206

Why do source reduction?

- A quick look at terms:
What is source reduction?
- When is garbage truly worthless?
- How does the fate of garbage affect tribal communities?

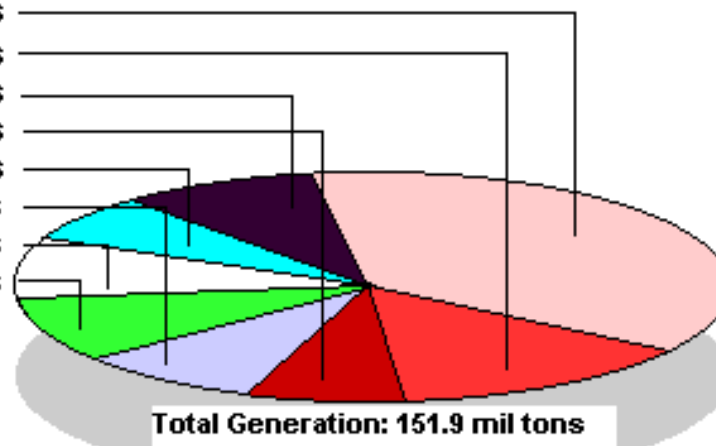


What We are Throwing Away

- Of the 210 million tons of trash generated in the United States annually about 56 million tons, or 27 percent, is either recycled (glass, paper products, plastic, metals) or composted (yard waste). The remaining trash is discarded and is made up of mostly paper products, plastics, yard waste and wood.

1995 NET WASTE DISPOSAL - 151.9 MIL. TONS (after recycling)

Paper	32.2%	48.9 mil tons
Yard Waste	13.7%	20.8 mil tons
Plastics	11.8%	18.0 mil tons
Wood	6.4%	11.8 mil tons
Metals	8.8%	9.7 mil tons
Food Waste	8.9%	13.5 mil tons
Glass	6.4%	9.7 mil tons
Other	11.8%	31.4 mil tons



Source: Characterization of MSW in the US:
1996 Update, US EPA, Washington, DC

Why Look at Tribal Events?

- Potential for large quantities of landfill waste
- People away from their recycle bins or systems
- Good way to get people to recycle if not already on board



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How to Organize a Zero or Very Low Waste Event

- Most waste generated at public events can usually be separated into two categories – recyclable and biodegradable.



Recyclables

- What are common recyclable items at big events?
 - Cardboard
 - Beverage containers (plastic, glass, aluminum)
- What are less common recyclable items?
 - Paper
 - Tin/steel cans from food preparation



Biodegradable

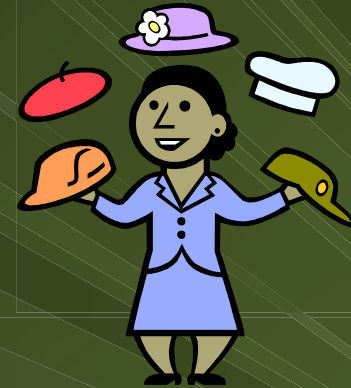
- Materials that will decompose including organic materials such as:
 - Food scraps
 - Paper cups
 - Knives, forks, cups and plates made from cornstarch or similar material
 - Food contaminated paper



Planning

■ Gain commitment by involving all key stakeholders

- Tribal Council – Champion?
- Tribal Members
- Site or event owners if not Tribe
- Sponsors
- Vendors
- Service contractors – businesses supplying fencing, portable toilets, power supply, and especially waste management



Promotion



- People can't support something they don't know about so...

publicize!

publicize!

publicize!

Promotion



- Issue media releases
- Use tribal publications and radio
- Obtain endorsement of a well-known member of the community
- Include information in official programs
- Don't forget word of mouth and the power of volunteers
- Make good signs for each bin

Vendors



■ Some Ideas on how to effectively work with vendors:

- Specify in vendor contracts that they may only sell or use products that are recyclable or biodegradable
- Provide a list of biodegradable products available locally

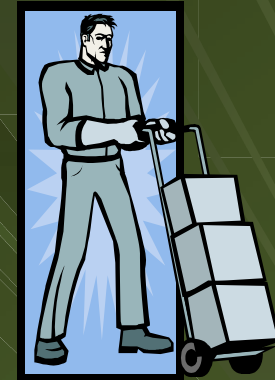
Vendors (Continued...)



- Consider providing a separate list of materials, such as styrofoam, that are not acceptable and should not be brought into the event
- Give vendors as much lead time as possible
- Have vendors separate food waste in the 'back of house'

Service Contractors

- Identify and engage contractors
- Consider the environmental outcomes you want to achieve when choosing service contractors. Do they offer:
 - access to a material recovery facility?
 - composting facilities or access to them?
 - quantitative information about the amount and weight of material recycled
 - the total amount of material diverted



The Importance of Bins

- Limit littering and contamination of bins by considering
 - The number of bins
 - The placement of bins
 - The type of bins
 - How they are presented



EPA Region 9 2005
Zero Waste Picnic



During the Event

- Use the public address system to:
 - Encourage correct use of bins
- Use staff or trained volunteers to:
 - Help to reduce the mix-up of waste streams and educate patrons
 - Retrieve incorrectly placed items with long-armed grabbing devices.



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After the Event



- Check that vendors have left their sites clean and as clear as possible.
- Provide staff or trained volunteers with bags, gloves, etc. Non-recyclable and non-biodegradable material should be removed from the site and disposed of as **general waste**.

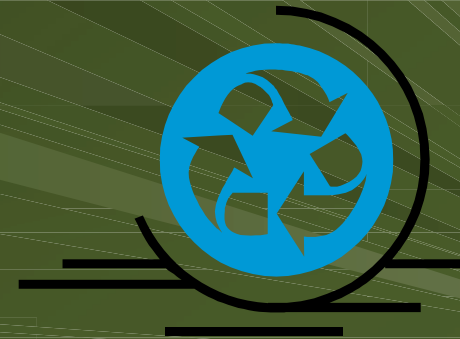
Data Collection



- Obtain data from contractors on waste materials collected
 - Quantitative data
 - Amount of recyclable material sent to a recycling depot.
 - Amount of biodegradable material sent to a composting facility
 - Amount of material prevented from going to landfill (the total of these two)

Reporting on your success!

- The waste outcomes of your event are very useful
- **Tell the world!**
 - The Tribal Council and members
 - Event participants
 - Neighboring community
 - Press
 - Funders/sponsors



Reporting on your success!

- What should I Track/Report?
 - Number of patrons at the event
 - Amount of drink containers
 - Amount of cardboard and paper collected
 - Amount of biodegradable material sent to a composting facility
 - Amount of material sent to landfill



Grants for Pollution Prevention

- Region 9 Source Reduction Grants
 - solicitation usually comes out in Jan/Feb
 - no match requirement
- Pollution Prevention Grants
 - applications usually due in April
 - reserved for states and tribes
 - requires \$1 for \$1 match, unless a tribe or intertribal consortium puts the P2 Grant under a PPG.

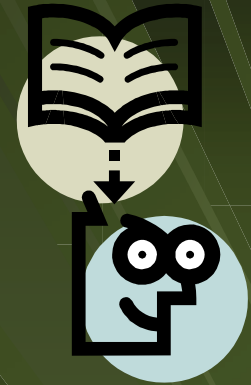


Grants for Pollution Prevention Continued



- GAP and Resource Conservation/Solid Waste – looking for comprehensive projects
- **Resource:** EPA Region 9 Available Grants - www.epa.gov/region09/funding
- State grants: California has reuse grants, Arizona has waste reduction grants
- Foundation Grants. Use search engines to find these grants. Some of these grants go unspent due to lack of interest

Source Reduction Resources



- Zero Waste SA (South Australia) Website
http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/prog_events.php
- United Indian Health Services:
Eric Johnson, Traditional Land Management
Specialist (707) 825-4144
- EPA Region 9 Tribal Solid Waste Website
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/solid/indianwaste.html>
- Tribal Pollution Prevention Website
<http://www.p2rx.org/P2InfoNexpert/tribal.cfm>
- Western Regional P2 Network (WRPPN) -
www.wrppn.org
- P2 Resource Exchange
www.p2rx.org

Thanks for Listening!

Questions?



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